

Draft Minutes
Joint Meeting
Green Advisory Board
And
Board of Selectmen
August 5, 2009
Public Safety Building Upstairs Meeting Room

Members present: Mary Smith, Terry Lindgren, Tom Michelman, Chris Schaffner, Carol Holley

The joint meeting was opened by Selectman Knibbe at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Schaffner gave a brief presentation on the Green Communities Act and what towns were required to do to become a green community. He discussed energy, and the money the town spends on it. If the town wished to apply for a technical assistance grant to help become a green community, a letter of intent to the state is required. Among the commitments is a process for expedited, one-year timeframe permits for alternative and renewable energy technologies - manufacturing the technology, not generating the energy – and by-right zoning for same. It was noted that the zoning piece was accomplished at the Special Town Meeting in June. Another requirement is adoption of the “stretch code”, an alternative building code with more stringent energy efficiency requirements, and a third is an energy footprint for municipal government functions (buildings, transportation, etc.).

The discussion focused primarily on issues with the stretch code – the potential for political backlash from builders and homeowners due to cost increases being a particular concern. Mr. Schaffner gave rough figures showing that building for energy efficiency pays for itself over a relatively short time span. Selectman Knibbe expressed concern that the technical assistance might not be helpful enough to warrant a rushed decision to write the commitment letter, and Selectman Friedrichs expressed concern that the concept had not had adequate public exposure.

The Selectmen, after some discussion with the Green Advisory Board, voted to draft a letter and forward it to the EDC and FinCom for review and comment, and then vote on whether or not to send the letter to the State at their meeting the following Monday. The Selectmen all expressed favorable opinions on becoming a Green Community and adopting the stretch code, but not all were convinced that the expedited time frame was appropriate.

The Green Advisory Board adjourned their meeting at 8:30 p.m. and left the Selectmen’s meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Holley